



VILLAGE OF PENTWATER

ON PENTWATER LAKE AND LAKE MICHIGAN
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March 5, 2013

The Honorable Goeff Hansen
Michigan Senate
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Hansen:

On behalf of the Village of Pentwater, we are in our strong support of Senate Bill 229 which will allow use of the Natural Resources Trust Fund for the dredging of the harbors used by recreational watercraft. As we are faced with historic low water levels, our Village does NOT have funds to dredge the entry to our harbor each year. For many decades, the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers has dredged our harbor at almost every year. As you know they claim that there are NO Federal funds this year and possibly in the future.

Last year, the Village of Pentwater and many private donors raised \$55,000 to dredge Pentwater harbor. Our small Village can NOT and will NOT be able to continue to do that in the future. While we are a resort location, most of our residents are retired and on fixed incomes.

Pentwater is a vacation destination for many families who come here to enjoy water sports. Currently, boaters and sailboats may get stuck or could be damaged on sandbars or decide not to enter our harbor. Because we are a resort community, our economy depends on attracting the vacationers and "summer people".

While we love the "PURE MICHIGAN" campaign, it doesn't help if our harbor is closed to boaters. Thank you for your assistance to shallow recreational harbors at this critical time. It is very important as we try to cope with the extreme low water levels. We strongly support Senate Bill 229 and urge its passage.

Respectfully,

Juanita Pierman
Village President